GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4351
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2002
UTILISATION OF FUNDS
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Labour in its Report 11 of 2001 has asked the Ministry to monitor the Central as well as the Centrally Sponsored Schemes to ensure that the funds allocated are fully utilised during the financial year itself;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard so far;

(c) whether the Ministry has not been able to bring any Central legislation for 76.4 million odd agricultural works;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether a National Policy for Home Based Workers was to be formulated to provide social security and to regulate their service conditions; and

(f) if so, the reasons for not formulating the policy and the time by which it is likely to be formulated?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): There is a three-tier monitoring mechanism already under operation in the Ministry to review the pace and progress of expenditure. Under this mechanism, Secretary reviews the pace of expenditure in periodical meetings with the Divisional Heads and Financial Adviser and identifies the main bottlenecks and steps to overcome them. This is followed by meetings taken by the Additional Secretary to examine the actual implementation of the decisions taken at the level of Secretary. Also, the Divisional Heads and Financial Adviser separately review individual cases. This practice of reviewing the pace and progress of plan expenditure at close and regular intervals at various levels has yielded good results and is being continued.

(c) & (d): A proposal to enact a comprehensive legislation for the welfare of agricultural workers had been under consideration of the Government for a long time. However, due to lack of consensus amongst the States, the matter could not be processed further.

(e) & (f): The formulation of National Policy on Home Based Workers has been under consideration of the Government and inter-Ministerial consultations are in progress. Home Based Workers belong to different occupational groups. No single legislation and administrative measures would suffice to meet their requirements. Further, these groups come under the purview of different Ministries and Departments. In order to formulate a workable and functional policy framework, a lot of consultation is required with various agencies and departments. Due to divergent views among various agencies involved, it is difficult to indicate the time frame by which the National Policy would be finalized.